

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 16169 292223Z

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1869

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 16169

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, GW, US

SUBJECT: MEETING ON USE OF VOA LW TRANSMITTER AND
FREQUENCY

REF: STATE 231266

1. EMBASSY PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ROBERT P. GALLAGHER, AUGUST WELKER, AND WAYNE RYAN, DIRECTOR, MUNICH VOA RELAY STATION. GERMAN PARTICIPANTS WILL BE HEINRICH VENHAUS, DIRECTOR, TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES; RUDOLF BINZ, CHIEF, RADIO FREQUENCY SECTION; HERBERT KRATH, CHIEF, BROADCASTING SECTION; WILLY BIERMAN, BINZ' DEPUTY; AND JUERGEN SCHMIDT, KRATH'S DEPUTY.

2. EMBASSY PLANS TO HAVE DINNER EVENING OF OCT. 10 FOR GERMAN AND US PARTICIPANTS. PLEASE ADVISE IF US PARTICIPANTS FROM WASHINGTON CAN ATTEND.

3. REF PARA 3 REFTTEL, THERE ARE EXPLICIT LEGAL STATUTES LIMITING PARTICIPATION IN BROADCASTING TO PUBLIC SECTOR ENTITIES. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF EACH OF THE VARIOUS GERMAN LAENDER (STATES) HAVE PASSED LAWS GIVING EXCLUSIVE BROADCASTING RIGHTS TO THE STATE BROADCASTING
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CORPORATIONS LOCATED WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL LAND'S BORDERS, THUS PRECLUDING ANY PRIVATE BROADCASTERS. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY LOOPHOLES IN THESE LAWS. (FYI: WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT PRIVATE GERMAN INTERESTS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET AROUND OR BREAK THROUGH THESE LAWS FOR TWENTY YEARS, WITHOUT SUCCESS.)

4. THE LEGAL BASIS OF THE FRG LICENSE TO COMMERCIAL STATION EUROPA ONE IN THE SAARLAND IS AS FOLLOWS:
IN 1952, WHILE THE SAARLAND WAS STILL INDEPENDENT, ITS GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED A 50 YEAR CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATE COMPANY, SAARLAENDISCHE FERNSEH A.G., OWNED BY A FRENCH FIRM IMAGE ET SON. ON THE BASIS OF THIS CONTRACT THE COMPANY STARTED COMMERCIAL FRENCH LANGUAGE RADIO AND TELEVISION TRANSMISSION FROM STATIONS IN SAAR TERRITORY. AFTER AMALGAMATION OF THE SAAR WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN 1957, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT STOPPED THE TELEVISION SERVICE BUT FOR POLITICAL REASONS (WITH SOME FRENCH PRESSURE) TOLERATED THE CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION OF THE 300 KW LONG-WAVE STATION, CALLED EUROPE NO. 1. THIS REMAINS THE ONLY PRIVATE COMMERCIAL BROADCAST TRANSMITTER ON THE AIR IN GERMANY. THE PROGRAMMING IS IN FRENCH AND ADVERTISING IS THE STATION'S MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME.
CROWLEY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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